



Advocates for Ohio's Future
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Advocates for Ohio's Future Encouraged by Governor DeWine's State of the State Commitments

Columbus - Advocates for Ohio's Future (AOF) praised Governor DeWine's commitment to invest in Ohio's children, workers and our collective future in his first State of the State address. The health and human services coalition focuses on policy areas that support healthy children and families, quality communities and pathways to prosperity for all so all Ohioans can live better lives.

"We agree with Governor DeWine: Now is the time to face the problems our state has put off for too long. Bold, targeted investments are needed to address growing public health emergencies like opioid addiction and infant mortality. The roots of issues like these lie in the disadvantages of poverty and trauma," said AOF Co-Chair Steve Wagner. "We are thankful for Governor DeWine's creation of a new public health fund that will direct resources for awareness and prevention strategies straight to communities that need it most. It will take new, innovative partnerships and robust policy changes that holistically address the needs of low-income families to strengthen Ohio's families to make all Ohioans healthy and competitive."

"As Governor DeWine said, we have a moral and economic imperative to reach out and support at-risk children and their families," said Tara Britton, AOF Co-Chair. "It is not only essential to support the social and emotional learning and provide important wraparound services for children, but also to support their parents and other adults in their lives. Lawmakers can support these adults by providing basic need assistance, and ensuring that an abundance of job and training opportunities exists in their communities to better promote self-sufficiency and family stability. We must also follow through on the Governor's commitment to aging Ohioans and support programs designed to protect their health, independence and quality of life. We look forward to working closely with members of the DeWine administration to develop long-term solutions so all Ohioans are given the chance to succeed."